

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCCHAR 04254 191627Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /066 W

----- 063997

O 191511Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4254

INFO: RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USDAO, BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4254

E.O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 82

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN MOD DEMARCHE TO DATT RE MIRCEA DEFECTIONS

1. ON 17 JULY, FOREIGN LIAISON REQUESTED DATT TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL ION COMAN AT 1300 ON 19 JULY, SUBJECT NOT SPECIFIED.

2. WHEN DATT ARRIVED AT MOD HE WAS MET BY GENERAL-LOCOTENENT MIRCEA MREJERU, SECRETARY OF THE CABINET, WHO EXPLAINED THAT GENERAL COMAN HAD BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY CALLED OUT OF TOWN. MREJERU STATED THAT GENERAL COMAN CONSIDERED THE MATTER OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD DESIRED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE DATT, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE EMPOWERED MREJERU TO DO SO. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE TWO OFFICERS FROM FLO, COLONEL CONSTANTIN AND COMMANDER PADARARIU.

3. MREJERU BEGAN THE MEETING WITH A REVIEW OF THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE US AND ROMANIA, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE MILITARY FIELD, AND HOW THE MIRCEA HAD MADE THE LONG VOYAGE TO THE US IN HONOR OF OUR BICENTENNIAL AND HAD RECEIVED SO MANY COURTESIES IN THE US DURING THE VISIT. HE THEN MENTIONED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUCCHAR 04254 191627Z

CADET AND CREWMAN WHO "DISAPPEARED", AS HE PUT IT, IN NEW YORK.

HE STATED THAT SEVERAL DEMARCHES HAD BEEN MADE BY THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT AVAIL. HE STATED THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS "INDIGNANT" OVER THIS CHAIN OF EVENTS AND THE FAILURE OF A LARGE POWERFUL COUNTRY TO FIND THE MISSING SEAMEN. DATT RESPONDED THAT NEW YORK CITY HAS SEVEN AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE AND EVEN A MASSIVE EFFORT TO LOCATE TWO UNKNOWN SEAMEN WOULD BE A DIFFICULT TASK.

4. MREJERU STATED THAT THE CADET UNGUREANU WAS DUE TO MEET WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON 20 JULY IN NEW YORK CITY BUT THAT THE CREWMAN VASIU HAD REFUSED TO MEET WITH ROMANIANS. MREJERU STATED THAT GENERAL COMAN REQUESTED THAT THE DATT URGE THE US AUTHORITIES TO RETURN UNGUREANU AND CASIU TO THEIR SHIP. DATT STATED THAT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH THE POSITION OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THAT THIS WAS AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT TO MAR AN OTHERWISE OUTSTANDING CRUISE AND VISIT. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE DATT EXPLAINED THE US LAW REGARDING FORCEFUL, NON-VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR CONFRONTATION.

5. MREJERU WENT ON TO ADVISE THAT HE HAD BEEN EMPOWERED TO SAY THAT IF THE TWO MEN ARE NOT RETURNED TO THE MIRCEA, THE MIRCEA WILL "PROBABLY" HAVE TO CURTAIL IT'S US VISIT AND RETURN TO ROMANIA. ALSO, THAT ADMIRAL SANDU WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL HIS VISIT TO THE CNO. DATT STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE MICREA COULD COMPLETE ITS VISIT AND THAT ADMIRAL SANDU COULD COMPLETE HIS CALL ON THE CNO.

6. MREJERU PRACTICALLY PLEADED FOR THE RETURN OF VASIU AND UNGUREANU. HE STATED THAT THEY WERE SO YOUNG AND THAT THE MEMBERS ON THE MIRCEA FOR THIS VOYAGE HAD BEEN HANDPICKED. QUOTE WHAT COULD THEY HAVE BEEN PROMISED? UNQUOTE HE PLEADED. DATT REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THE REASONS THE TWO MEN FAILED TO RETURN TO THEIR SHIP BUT IT WAS UNFAIR TO SPECULATE THAT ANYONE IN THE US WOULD PROMISE THEM ANYTHING OR WOULD HAVE ANY REASON OR MOTIVE FOR SO DOING. DATT CONCLUDED BY STATING HE WOULD PASS GENERAL COMAN'S REQUEST TO US AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY.

7. COMMENT: THE MEETING WITH MREJERU WAS CORDIAL AND HE SEEMED ALMOST PAINED TO HAVE TO BRING THE MATTER UP. BUT IT APPEARS FROM THE LEVEL AND THE TONE OF THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO US CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUCAR 04254 191627Z

THAT IF THE MEN DO NOT RETURN TO THE MIRCEA, THE MIRCEA WILL PROBABLY TERMINATE IT'S US VISIT AND US/ROMANIAN MILITARY RELATIONS WILL SUFFER A SET BACK. SHOULD THIS OCCUR IT MAY WILL JEOPARDIZE THE SEPTEMBER VISIT OF THE USS YARNELL TO CONSTANTA, THE CIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR WHICH WE ARE CURRENTLY AWAITING. SCISSORS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, VISITS, DEFECTION, MIRCEA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUCHAR04254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760278-1044
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760746/aaaabntj.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN MOD DEMARCHE TO DATT RE MIRCEA DEFECTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, RO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006